



NEPA Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Program or Field Office: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM)

Project Title: Conduct Routine Actions at the Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site

Location: Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site

Proposed Action or Project Description:

DOE LM is proposing to conduct routine actions at the Naturita, Colorado, Processing Site (site), including, but not limited to:

- Operating, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, modifying, upgrading, replacing, or removing existing site facilities or features (e.g., parking areas, site roads or vehicle pathways, stormwater drainages or controls [actions may include installing new stormwater controls if needed], various concrete features, gates, fences, and signs). Contouring, reconfiguring, or resurfacing existing site areas to facilitate site operations, including existing roads, parking areas, sampling areas, erosion areas, etc. Any work in supplemental standards areas would need to comply with applicable parts of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment *Uranium Mill Tailings Management Plan for Managing Title I Uranium Mill Tailings Encountered During Construction Activities in Western Colorado* (updated June 2019).
- Using minor quantities of miscellaneous chemicals (e.g., lubricants, paint, solvents, cleaners) and doing minor equipment fueling (diesel or gasoline) as needed.
- Controlling fugitive dust with water spray, chemical dust suppressant, or other approved methods if warranted by work conditions. The proposed routine actions would not be expected to produce significant fugitive dust or combustible emissions.
- Conducting groundwater monitoring and related tasks at the site's existing groundwater monitoring wells, which are within and outside the site boundary on adjacent properties (collecting and analyzing groundwater samples; measuring real-time conditions [e.g., water level, pH level, turbidity, conductance]; purging wells; developing wells; and maintaining, repairing, modifying, and upgrading existing wells, well pads, groundwater pumps, flow meters, etc.). Conducting surface water monitoring on the San Miguel River or adjacent areas (e.g., wetland areas) near the site boundary or at more distant locations outside the site boundary.
- Conducting soil sampling onsite or in offsite areas where necessary.
- Conducting inspections and site tours for LM staff, Legacy Management Support contractor (LMS) staff, and non-DOE parties (e.g., representatives of federal, state, or local governments).
- Controlling vegetation by using herbicides, removing it with hand or power tools, or mowing. Revegetating areas if necessary.
- Monitoring vegetation and other biota both onsite and in offsite areas where necessary.
- Operating, inspecting, calibrating, maintaining, repairing, modifying, upgrading, replacing, removing, or installing new telemetry and other instrumentation and equipment used in System Operation and Analysis at Remote Sites (SOARS) stations and to support Applied Studies and Technology work (e.g., moisture sensors, meteorological instruments [precipitation and temperature gauges, wind sensors], electrical and plumbing components, radio transceivers, solar panels, batteries, and cameras).
- Conducting land surveys.
- Managing, recycling, and properly disposing of minor quantities of nonradioactive or radioactive waste (e.g., nonhazardous solid waste or radioactive waste, such as used sampling materials or personal protective equipment).
- Conducting administrative actions, such as preparing statements of work and job safety analyses; preparing work permits for various activities (e.g., hot work permits, excavation permits, or radiation work permits); analyzing scientific data and preparing related reports (e.g., SOARS data and groundwater monitoring data); preparing inspection reports; maintaining onsite and offsite access agreements with the Town of Naturita, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and other parties; and other actions. If necessary, applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permits would be used to cover routine actions that occur at the San Miguel River or in adjacent wetlands.

The proposed actions do not have the potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties; therefore, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, according to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, is not required.



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Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

A1 Routine DOE business actions; A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination; B1.3 Routine maintenance; B1.7 Electronic equipment; B1.11 Fencing; B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers; B1.28 Placing a facility in an environmentally safe condition; B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment; B1.33 Stormwater runoff control; B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation; B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring; B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources; B3.16 Research activities in aquatic environments; B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems; B6.1 Cleanup actions

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1021 (10 CFR 1021).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

- ☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

- ☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- ☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized by the LM Director per DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified classes of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature and
Determination Date

JOYCE CHAVEZ Digitally signed by JOYCE CHAVEZ
Date: 2022.10.24 11:14:04 -06'00'